The Miller-Cummings Families

This book given to me April 1976
by Harold and Edith Champ.
It had belonged to Harold's brothers
wife, my great aunt,
Emma Dulle Mantz Champ

GEN

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 1833 01775 7177

GENEALOGY
929.2
M612MB

For Cousin Emma Sues.

BT. R. 15

The Miller
Cummings
Families...

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

http://www.archive.org/details/millercummingsfa00mill

To the Memory

of

Peter Miller,

Malachi Cummings,

Frederick Miller,

Joseph Cummings,

Abraham Miller,

David Cummings,

Hezakiah Applegate,

Their wives,

Their descendants,

Living and dead.

By BENTON MILLER,
Webster Groves, Mo.

COLLECTING THE SCRAPS of history, legend and story of these pioneering families, has not been an easy task. For almost fifty years I have been collecting data, hoping the time would come when I could get it together so that those interested would be able to find information of worth-while character about our forebears. I have written many letters, visited Historical Societies, corresponded with others, seeking to reduce to certitude the stories that have come down through the generations.

In this modest effort, I have been assisted by several persons. I thank them sincerely. There will, no doubt, be errors as to dates of birth, marriages and dates of death. The omissions will be due to my inability to get the information, to apathy of relatives, those who failed to co-operate, or the data is not available to any one at this late date. These folk were a restless, ever moving people. They did not stay long enough in one place to take root. Vital statistics were unknown and the wilderness church preserved no records and it also appears that the household kept no record of the family; if they did the book has not been handed down to those that are heirs of the past. Property transfers, legal documents, inventories and War records furnished most of the data; upon the dates found in such papers, I could figure and secure much information of value.

The Pioneer was one of the most picturesque of American characters. He was a resourceful individual, self-reliant, bold, capable of many social changes under varied conditions and circumstances. He had to endure danger, hunger, fatigue, privation as well as many other hardships incident to primitive living. In fact it was all these things that educated him. He was a strong man with a strong man's vices and a strong man's virtues. He lived close to nature, he satisfied his needs from the Earth. He used raw hide for leather, buck skin for cloth, venison, bear and wild fowl for meat. His vision

was clear, and his ideals and love of country were a passion. He appreciated his freedom. More than all this applies to the women, those sturdy pioneering mothers of men, fit companions for the builders of a mighty nation.

My interest in my forebears is not entirely sentimental, there is a real value in knowing something of those who passed on the germ of life to me. I accept them, they will have to accept me, I am their contribution to the world of today.

I seriously hope that my kinsfolk will find something of interest in this story, the legends and the history of our family, together with some recollections and observations of my own.

We have something to think about in our forebears, we are intrigued by their wandering quest, seeking a place of security for themselves and their children in the "Land of Promise." Their life of hardship and privation is a challenge to each. Will those that come after us be pleased to remember that we also served in making a better World and be kind to our memory? It appears to me, we face a great danger in "our Land of Promise," a land where each to the extent of his talent, energy and thrift has the chance to get ahead and better his condition. Our country has but one-sixth of Earth's population, yet this people own over One Hundred and Ten Billions of Life Insurance, more than twice the amount owned by all the other people in the World. This is but one item of wealth. The spur for individual initiative, invention, research and industry has lead to an amazing development in all lines. Distance has been eliminated by the automobile, aeroplane, trains and steamboats. We converse with our friend in London or Paris as we do with one in the room. Men with vision and industry have harnessed the forces of nature to give light, heat and energy. Industry has worked upon steel and rubber, we call it Industrial Chemistry. Medical Chemistry has produced

Anaesthesia, X-Ray, Surgery, Antitoxins, Bacteriology, almost eliminated scourges of Small Pox, Typhoid, curbed Diabetes, Tuberculosis and other hazards.

Is there another country where the youth are all guaranteed a free school education, and higher education made possible for those of ambition? In times of temporary distress, and all countries have those periods, there is always the danger of forgetting the accomplishments of the past and losing perspective of the possibilities of the future; to try to cure by man-made laws things that only time, the natural laws and economic forces can cure; trying out some sedative, a hasty remedy, one that may give temporary relief, but is sure to lead to a crisis in the future. The surgeon does not cut off a broken arm, because the arm might again be broken.

This Nation of ours grew great because men were permitted to develop, to use their abilities, to dream. A few may have abused the privilege, but I know that the great rank and file of our prosperous men, did not become prosperous and successful by reason of chicanery. There are more opportunities today than ever existed in the land, if business be allowed to run its business. If individuals and corporations are not allowed to use freedom of initiative, to husband funds for slack times, have money on hand for research, and unless men be allowed to profit on their contribution to advancement, we are in great danger of selling our rightful heritage for a doubtful mess of pottage.

For "unto one He gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability." Our nation will continue to grow only as each uses to the best his talent or his talents, by so doing we may hand down, to those who come after us, a fuller and a riper heritage.

PETER MILLER

FROM MY EARLIEST YOUTH, I heard stories about Peter Miller and Frederick Miller. Peter's son married Frederick's daughter.

Jackson Miller, a grandson of both Peter and Frederick, was an aged man before I was interested, seriously, in the family story. He repeated to me some of the things I had heard about his grandfathers.

Peter Miller, so the story ran, had been a Coppersmith in Boston, had marched up Bunker Hill (Breed's Hill) with General Warren, was a member of the Boston Tea Party, had lived in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, was a soldier under Gen. Washington at Valley Forge, died and was buried there.

There are no less than seven Millers named Peter, recorded in the War Department, all enlisted from Lancaster County and two other counties adjoining. I have no doubt I have found my forebear, but which one of the Millers named Peter belongs to me? Although neither of these is the one I am looking for, and the records of enlistment for the war of Independence were far from complete, I know that Peter Miller was not a myth, he did exist. Quite naturally his name, if he was at the "Tea Party," would not be a matter of record. The mob was about three hundred, all disguised. An old edition of Ridpath's History says "Peter Miller was a member of the Boston Tea Party." This statement may not be true, and if it is, is this Peter Miller the one I am interested in?

So many stories have come down to me about this man, I cannot prove any one of them. I have tried to find him. I know these stories could all be wrong, so called historical matters may be proven incorrect; that

has happened. But after all we learn as much from story and legend as we do from history. If history enlightened mankind so much, would the nations of the Earth be regimenting their citizens, hampering their free movements, trying to change the "law of supply and demand," etc., all these things having been tried before?

It matters but little when a man dies or when a nation or a civilization fell, but each generation is instructed by the art, the poetry and the wisdom created by that man within that city or civilization, those values have lived as story and legend more than as history.

It has been claimed by many that Peter Miller was of the Netherlands, others claimed he was a German. I am fully convinced that he was of German blood, although he did live in Pennsylvania where the "Dutch" were numerous.

I do not know where he was born, tradition says he had three sons and two daughters when he died. I have heard the names of the boys, but I have not been able to find the record I made, years ago. One of them was named Abraham. With my great grandfather Abraham, tradition gives way to factual data. Abraham was but a small boy when his father died. He was raised in the family of Oliver Havenhill. With this family, his foster parents, he emigrated to the territory of Kentucky, prior to 1790. Abraham Miller was born February 4th, 1774. He was married to Ann Margaret (Peggy) Miller in the year 1803. She was the daughter of Frederick Miller. Both the Miller families had lived in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, probably knew each other before they emigrated to Kentucky, therefore we have a double source for the stories and legends about the life of Peter Miller.

Abraham and Ann Margaret thought settlers were crowding them in the wilderness of Kentucky, so about 1809 they removed to Indiana Territory, now Jackson County. In the year 1810, Indians were troublesome,

the territorial Governor ordered all the families to the fort that had been built, near to the present village of Valonia. One of their daughters was born while they lived in the fort. She married Mr. Lockman in due course.

The Indians killed and scalped one of the settlers, his name was Sturgeon. The few soldiers and the few men folk were a "bit" afraid to bring into the fort the dead man, Ann Margaret told all and sundry that "if they did not bring in the body of the man for decent burial, she and the women would do so."

I found a record in Washington that "Abraham Miller enlisted in Captain Beggs' troop of light Dragoons, 2nd Regiment of Indiana Territorial Militia, served as Sergeant, General Harrison, Governor, having called the Regiment into service." Enlistment date was September 11th, 1811.

In the year 1816, Indiana was admitted to the Union. Prior to this time Abraham and wife had entered on a piece of land situated about four miles southwest of Brownstown.

I was born on this farm. There were two houses, the one in which Grandmother Miller lived is still standing. Our log house, stood on the edge of a large wood. Nearby was a winding brook, we knew it as "Ox Creek," so named because Abraham Miller knew an Indian named Ox who had lived on the land that Abraham entered. Along this winding stream, deep pools were found, here the water lingered and so did the fish. It was here, with willow pole, string for a line and often only a bent pin for a hook, I learned to fish, years before I heard of Isaac Walton.

Grandmother, Elsie Applegate Miller, was a strong character. Through the mist of the years I can see her face. I remember the bond of affection that existed between her and my mother. She read her Bible on Sunday afternoon, when I was a little boy. Go fishing

on Sunday? NO. Burnside, her youngest child, was but a few years older than my brother John Perry and myself. This young uncle of mine was a human dynamo. There was seldom a dull moment when he was around. One Sunday afternoon, we slipped away and went afishing. Results, far better than we had expected. We approached the house quite cautiously, hoped the splendid string of fish would soften the ire of grandmother, it did not; she paddled the three of us. "Unk" did not appear to me to be much impressed, neither was my brother, but the gravity of it all impressed me. My anatomy was not damaged; my feelings were.

I do not know how it came about, but the three of us were left alone on the farm one Sunday. There was nothing to do, that state of affairs could not last long. This uncle proposed that we yoke a couple of young steers to the gear of the old "Iron Harvester." All this took a deal of time and labor. To keep the oxen from "going in reverse" we tied their tails together. We pushed, prodded and pulled them out into the Highway. After much effort they started places, leaving us far behind in a cloud of dust. Down the road was an open pasture, trees and stumps were numerous. The oxen did not calculate properly, they struck a tree head on, broke the yoke and were released, but one steer had a large portion of the other's tail. This was not so funny. We rounded them up, a very difficult job, and daubed tar on the injured member to stop the flow of blood and to discourage the flies.

This woods pasture in the rear of our old house was a joy to me. I remember the Beech, Oak, Chestnut, Black and Sweet Gum, Yellow Poplar, etc., that grew in this enchanted forest of my early childhood. I remember that on occasion there came great flocks of Passenger Pigeons. A flock so great the eye could not see the end of it, countless thousands of them. They came into the woods for the acorn and beech nuts, their food. Much of our forests have been cut down, and the Repeating Shotgun finished this beautiful bird. Not a

wild pigeon in these United States remain, they are all gone, dead as the Dodo. Michigan appears to have been their chief place, their habitat. When food was scarce at home they migrated to other parts. The Railroad Shipping Records of the state of Michigan tells the sad story of the Wild or Passenger Pigeon.

I remember amusing myself hunting "Doodle Bugs." Those dark "fellows" lived in decayed logs and old stumps. They would come up and out when I called them by name. Why? I do not know. Some day I am going to look for them again. I also remember the long lazy summer afternoons, and then as night came on and evening laid her quiet hand upon the Earth, I heard the Whipoorwill and the piping of the Tree Frogs. Now there was a real mystery. This toad began life in the water, yet lived in a tree. How could it climb a tree? How could it change its color, and why did older folk say it was going to rain, if this frog piped?

In the year 1877 the Brownstown Banner published an article relative to the Pioneers of the County. Reference to Abraham Miller—"There was also Abraham Miller, the father of Isaac, Thomas, Frederick and Perry, also Jackson Miller, of Valonia. In early life I heard it said of Abraham Miller, that he was "the Honest Man," ever upright in his dealings with men, harmless and inoffensive. Who among the older settlers of Brownstown does not remember the old man, when bowed by the weight of more than seventy-five years, mounted on his old gray horse, he paid his weekly visit to Brownstown. None, I presume, ever saw Abraham Miller in a grog shop. He died at the advanced age of eighty-two and rests among his friends in the old cemetery at Brownstown. There, with some others, were the band of patriots, who, far in advance of civilization, came out and began a settlement in the deep forest, tenanted by wild beasts and wild and savage men.

Abraham Miller died December 10th, 1856. Ann

Margaret, his wife, died, July 17th, 1866, aged eighty years.

Children of Abraham and Ann Margaret (Peggy) Miller:

Frederick, born September 25th, 1804.
Isaac, born May 23rd, 1806.
Thomas, born February 5th, 1808.
Catherine, born October 13th, 1811.
Cinderilla, born September 26th, 1813.
Jackson, born March 16th, 1815.
John Perry, born December 11th, 1816.
Washington, born December 3rd, 1819, died April 3rd, 1844. Buried on the farm.
Emerilla, born December 14th, 1822.
James.

Catherine was born in the Fort at Valonia. At the age of seventeen married Washington J. Lockman. He was born April 7th, 1808. They were married March 2nd, 1828.

Their children were:

Margaret A., born December 5th, 1829.
Luzina, born September 4th, 1831.
Charlotia, born May 28th, 1833.
Squire M. S., born October 4th, 1833.
Vincent, born February 28th, 1835.
Rasmus, born September 4th, 1836.
William A., born November 4th, 1838.
Elizabeth, born August 11th, 1843.
Cinderilla, born May 14th, 1845.

(I remember great uncle Isaac Miller. One very cold night he came to our house, induced me to put my hand in his overcoat pocket. A tiny pig was found. He said he picked it up. Mother helped me warm it and feed it.

It grew to mature "hog hood." I am sure no one ever saw a more comical looking specimen of the Porcine family—no ears, no tail.)

John Perry Miller, son of Abraham, born December 11th, 1816, died November 16, 1865. Married Elsie Applegate. She was born February 28th, 1814, died May 2nd, 1887.

Children of John Perry and Elsie Miller:

(a) Ellen, born ....., died April 29th, 1860, buried in Iowa.

(b) William H. H., born November 29th, 1840, died March 23rd, 1906.

(c) Eli Warren, born March 9th, 1843, died October 28th, 1919.

(d) Charlotte, born February 7th, 1848, died March 13th, 1930. Great grandmother

(e) Lina, born March 3rd, 1852, died April 16th, 1912. Thomas Jefferson, born ....., died .....

(f) Ambrose E. B., born February 28th, 1863. Living.

There were ten children, three died in infancy, Redmund, Margaret and Fidelia.

(a) Ellen, married Mandeville Cochran. He died November 1st, 1913.
Children: John Perry. Living at Delaware, Ohio. John Perry Cochrane, married Ella Shindoler, May 8th, 1888. They have one daughter, Doris. (Mrs. Hills.)

(b) William (Bill), married Mrs. Polly Parsons. Born May 8th, 1841, died February 8th, 1915. Children: One daughter, Elsie A. Married Mr. Hixon. Two sons.

(c) Eli Warren, married Eliza Ellen Cummings, October 5th, 1865. She was born September 25th, 1843. Died July 16th, 1924.
Children:
1. John Perry, born August 25th, 1866. Died

April 5th, 1899. Married Christina Hall, May 22nd, 1895. She was born December 5th, 1870. Died April 13th, 1937.

Children: Maureda, Edna and John Perry. John died, July 16th, 1916. Mrs. Tena Hall Miller, married, 2nd to Mr. Marshall Byrley.

2. Benton, born April 6th, 1868. Married August 3rd, 1893, Albertine Cornelia Hull. She was born in New York, December 7th, 1872.
   Children: Cornelia Hull and Warren Seward.
3. Oscar A., born October 14th, 1869. Died February 28th, 1919. Married Betty Zimerling .....
   Children: Oscar H. and Ellen Grace.
4. Martha Elsie, born June 26th, 1871. Married Henry Stromenger November 30th, 1905. He was born, December 19th, 1876.
   Children: Son, Warren.
5. William A., born March 21st, 1873. Married Olevia Hays, November 7th, 1879. She was born July 25th, 1873.
   Children: Carl L., Lois L., William R., Perry H., and James Benton.
6. David J., born November 5th, 1874. Married Emma Loper, September 5th, 1909. She was born November 6th, 1874.
   Children: One daughter, Pearl.
7. Pearl, born September 20th, 1877, died June 22nd, 1899.
8. Delight, born September 6th, 1880. Married Charles Barkman, January 1st, 1902. He was born June 11th, 1876.
   Children: One daughter, Margaret.
9. Joseph Earl, born May 4th, 1883, died August 27th, 1885.

(d) Charlotte married David P. Tuell, August 15th, 1869. Born April 4th, 1845, died September 20th, 1909.

Children of Charlotte Miller Tuell and David P. Tuell: Great grandparents

1. Ross, born February 7th, 1872. Married Kate Masters. She was born August 29th, 1878.
   Children: Effie, Lila, Ellas, Blanche, Ralph and Lawrence.

2. Meady, born October 16th, 1873. Died August 25th, 1877.

3. William, born September 17th, 1875. Married Amy Heller, born July 16th, 1878.
   Children: Bernice, Kenneth and Frances.

4. Clarence, born March 11th, 1878. Married Amandy Cockrum, born March 28th, 1882.
   Children: Hellen, Esther and Dorothy.

5. Lina, born February 26th, 1881. Married Ed. Hotchkiss, born September 15th, 1880.
   Children: Paris, Ione, Reeva and Junita.
   2nd husband, Z. M. Purdy, born February 14th, 1880.

6. May, born May 1st, 1883. Married M. B. Singer, born September 3rd, 1883.
   Children: Morse B. Jr., Wilhelmina, Jesse Lee and David.

7. Jesse, born April 21st, 1885, died September 12th, 1908.

8. Stella, born April 6th, 1887. Married Frank Dixon, born ..... Died October ....., 1937.
   Children: Daughter, named Charlotte.

9. Emma, born October 16th, 1889. Married Edward Mantz, born.....

(e) Lina, married Adam Schwein, January 1st, 1873. Born, January 4th, 1849, died February 1st, 1935.
Children: Daisy, Bertha. (Elsie E., Hettie, Leonard and Lennie, deceased.)

(f) Ambrose E. B., married Johanah P. Niemann. Born May, 1869. Died February, 1920.
Children: John Perry, Ella, Cyclone and Evert J. (Cyclone deceased.)
2nd marriage, Mrs. Bettie Miller.

FREDERICK MILLER

MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS AGO, Jackson Miller, then an aged man, living at Valonia, Indiana, re-told many of the tales I had heard about his grandfather, Frederick Miller. This man was my maternal great, great grandfather. Some years ago, I exchanged information I had collected with Mrs. Walter Kerr of Aurora, Indiana, Mrs. Kerr having made quite an exhaustive search for authentic data regarding her great, great grand sire; and quite recently Miss Lilla Vermilya furnished data about the family of Frederick Miller that would have been impossible for me to obtain. I am greatly indebted to each of these ladies for assistance and encouragement.

Frederick Miller was born in Germany in 1758, and died January 3rd, 1815. He lived in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and was a soldier of the Revolution. In the year 1779, he married Ann Custer who probably lived in the same county of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Ann Custer Miller was born in the year 1760. Some time prior to 1790 they emigrated to Kentucky where she died in the year 1812.

I must refer again to Jackson Miller. He said "his grandmother's family was a very prominent one," and in my search, checking data and story through the War Department and Historical Society, I have all reason to believe him.

On November 10th, 1814, Frederick Miller enlisted in Captain Farmer's Company, Slaughter's Regiment, Kentucky Militia, marched to New Orleans, sickened and died there, just prior to the battle. The story I had heard was that he was killed in the battle, but the Government report does not so state. I have visited this

battle site, and walked over the cemetery. When I saw the place, it was quite evident that it needed much care.

Children of Frederick and Ann Miller:

1. Ann Margaret (Peggy), married Abraham Miller.
2. Adam, born October 10th, 1781, married Susanna Settles.
3. Eva, married James Settles.
4. Christena, married Mr. Hogan; 2nd, Vincent Lockman.
5. Catherine, married James McDonald.
6. Elizabeth, married William Baker.
7. John (died infant).

(2) Adam and Susanna Miller. Son, Joseph Miller. Joseph's 1st wife, Caroline Goss. Son, William A. Miller. William A., married Ida Smith.

Children: Henry, Belle, Ralph, Carrie, Hendricks and Josephine. Josephine is living.

Joseph Miller's 2nd wife was Lydia Ireland. Married February 18th, 1847.

Children: Useba, born 1847, died May 7th, 1859.

1. Josephine E., married Wright Vermilya.
   Children: Edwin L., Joseph Clyde, Earl, Ray, Wright (deceased), and Lilla.
2. Sarah A., married Wilbur C. Benton.
   Children: Delight, Wilbur, Howard (deceased), Hetty and Frank M.
3. Carrie M., married Jonathan Robertson.
   Children: Aimee, Joseph M. (Maurice and John died infants.)
4. Ruby, married Frank Stilwell.
   C[illegible]: Adam S., born May 28th, 1856, died May 19th, 1859.

5. James I., married Ann Snyder. Issue, one son, James A.
6. Joseph Lane, married Lillie Helton. Two children, Robert C. and Neva. Marion T., born October 27th, 1862. Died January 19th, 1864.
7. Lilla S., married James Martin. One son, Joe Isaac. Leona, born April 16th, 1867. Died September 19th, 1886.

When Joseph Miller died he was the most prosperous farmer in Jackson County, Indiana. My father always spoke of him as Uncle Joe. I remember with gratitude his widow, Mrs. Lydia Miller, She extended a helping hand to a young man of the long ago, and lives in his memory.

THE APPLEGATE FAMILY

I DO NOT REMEMBER hearing many stories about this family. I do not know why. My grandmother, Elsie Applegate Miller had several brothers and sisters living when I was a youngster, and I remember seeing one of her sisters who lived in Iowa. She had a family, but I do not remember her name. I do remember, however, two of her brothers, Philip and Eli, who lived in the vicinity.

The Applegate family was originally from England, and settled in Maryland. I have also heard that some members of the family lived in Pennsylvania; that the first one in this country was named Samuel; that he was a soldier of the Revolution, and that his son, Hezekiah, was my grandmother's father. Hezekiah was born in the year 1776. His wife was Eleanor Daily, who was born in Virginia and was related to the family of an early governor of the state of Virginia, named Daily.

When this family emigrated to Indiana, or where they first settled, I do not know. I think Elsie Applegate Miller was born in Clark County. I tried to locate Samuel Applegate through the War Department as a soldier from Maryland, and still have letters, written to the Historical Societies of Pennsylvania, awaiting a reply. I am sorry I have not been able to collect more information, as this was a fine group of relatives and deserves a better place in this little history. Uncle Philip, lived to old age, and died about thirty-five years ago.

From the descendents of Eli Applegate I obtained the names of grandmother's brothers and sisters, the children of Hezekiah and Eleanor Applegate: William, born June 4th, 1802. Mary, born November 5th, 1803. Levi,

born June 4th, 1806. Philip, born January 17th, 1809. Jacob, born April 13th, 1811. Elsie, born February 28th, 1814. Charlotte, born October 6th, 1817. Eli Daily, born November 18th, 1825.

Eli Daily Applegate's first wife, Adeline, was born May 25th, 1825. They had two children, LeRoy A., born June 2nd, 1851, and Leander E., born September 6th, 1853. Eli married, as his second wife, Sarah Elizabeth, born July 7th, 1834. Their children were:

1. Hettie Bell, born February 14th, 1856. Died October 22nd, 1878. She married Mr. Banks.

2. Anna Lincoln, born September 21st, 1861, and died September 7th, 1894. Married Mr. Banks. One daughter living, ...

3. Lillie Dale, born February 8th, 1863. Married Philip Doerr. Two sons were born to them: Louis and Clyde.

4. Elmore Ellsworth, born March 25th, 1864. Died April 27th, 1885.

5. Eva Viola, born November 5th, 1871. Died July 23rd, 1924. Married Frank Hegar. One daughter, Marie. Marie married: First, Carl Burkhart. One daughter was born to them: Marie Dorothy. Mr. Burkhart died, and Marie Hegar Burkhart, married George Rothfuss. I am indebted to Mrs. Rothfuss for much of the data in this short account of a splendid family.

THE CUMMINGS FAMILY

THREE BROTHERS NAMED CUMMINGS, Scotch-Irish, said to have come from or near Glasgow, Scotland, were located in Virginia as early as 1759. When they arrived, whether their parents were with them, whether they came direct to Virginia, or arrived by easy stages, as it were, will probably not be known. These brothers bore the names of Simon, John and Malachi. In the year 1769 there is found a record on file in Fauquier County, Virginia, an Inventory of personal property of Malachi Cummings, administrated by Elizabeth Cummings. Further records, one regarding farm land, it would appear that the holdings of father and sons were contiguous, meted and bounded by "Goose Creek and Rocky Run." U.S. Highway No. 50 passes through their former holdings. A will executed in 1782 mentions the three brothers. One is impressed by the frequent use of the names of Joseph and Malachi, these names run with the generations, Joseph comes down to the present day.

Up to the present time it has been impossible to unravel much of the early history of this family. In all probability the original Malachi in America was the father of Malachi who was the father of Joseph, the Revolutionary soldier, and it is with this Joseph Cummings, my great, great grand sire that my authentic record really begins.

This family, Cummings, is very fortunate, in that down through the years, records are to be found, and these records enabled me to follow, particularly, the branch of the family that is of most interest to me.

The late Dr. D. J. Cummings of Brownstown,

Indiana, was much interested in the family; at his death, his son Elmer took the data his father had accumulated and has added much valuable information. In fact I am indebted to him for much of the history and verification of data found in this rather short summation of this large and far-flung family.

Malachi, father of Joseph, died in 1810.

JOSEPH CUMMINGS, SON OF MALACHI

On the 13th day of July, 1833, Joseph Cummings executed papers, applying for a pension, his original discharge papers having been lost. He was then living in White County, Tennessee. This affidavit recites that he was born in Fauquier County, Virginia, February 11th, 1762, and that he was living in Henry County, Virginia when called into service. Since the war he had removed to Jackson County, Tennessee, where he had lived for twenty-six years. His application for a pension was approved on September 22nd, 1833, by Lewis Case, Secretary of War. The pension was for twenty dollars a year, payable semi-annually. The number of the claim was S-1659.

Joseph was one of the early settlers of the section of Tennessee to which he removed, and is so honored by the citizens living in the locality at the present time. The town of Cummingsville, near where he settled, derived its name from "Joseph and his brethren." Near this place is the Cummings Spring, named for Joseph since he is supposed to have been the first white man to have drunk of its waters. Local tradition says that on the day he discovered the spring, he disturbed a bear and her cub, and the nervous rattle of a snake made his approach cautious.

In October, 1937, at Sparkmantown, Tennessee, the citizens and the local D.A.R. attended the unveiling of a marker over the grave of Joseph Cummings, and his great, great grandson, Elmer Cummings of Washington, D.C., was present and made the principal talk of the day.

Near the original homesite, Joseph and his wife are

buried, also Malachi, his father, and many others of the name. Joseph died in 1853.

About 1786, Joseph married Rosanah Colyer Seilers who was born in 1767. Several children were born to them in Virginia, and in the year 1805, they emigrated to Tennessee. I have, probably, the names of all their children, but dates of birth I have been unable to find. David who was born March 31st, 1787 in Virginia, and died in 1841 and was buried at or near Bedford, Indiana, was my great grandfather, Malachi, born in 1791 in Virginia, was the grandfather of the late Dr. D. J. Cummings. There were also a John, Ellen, Sarah, Mary, Rosanah, Joseph, William Burrell, Simon, and Gabrial.

(This summation of Joseph's family I had from my grandfather, Joseph Cummings about the year 1893.)

("The Joseph Cummings' Society" was organized September, 1937, at Cummingsville, Tennessee), Mrs. P. K. Oakes, Cor. Secy., Sparta, Tennessee.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF PENSIONS
WASHINGTON

December 15th, 1925.

F. B. Miller,
LaSalle Building,
St. Louis, Mo.

Sir:—

I have to advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War Pension Claim S-1659, it appears that Joseph Cummings was born in Fauquier County, Virginia, February 11th, 1762.

While a resident of Henry County, Virginia, he enlisted in 1781 as a private with the Virginia troops

under Captains, John Renfro, Nathaniel Rice and Robert Bush; he marched to Richmond to guard prisoners taken at Yorktown.

He was allowed a pension on his application executed July 13th, 1833, at which time he was a resident of White County, Tennessee. There is no data on file relative to his family.

Respectively,

WINFIELD SCOTT,
Commissioner.

DAVID CUMMINGS, SON OF JOSEPH

David Cummings, son of Joseph, the soldier, my great grandfather, married Sarah Kiethly. She was born April 23rd, 1785, died at the home of her son Joseph, near Houston, Indiana, May 3rd, 1870, and is buried in the Thompson Cemetery. David died 1841 and is buried in the Cummings burial lot near Bedford, Indiana, in fact on the farm that David and wife entered upon in the year 1824. My Mother has told me she remembered her grandfather, David Cummings, remembered him giving her a trinket. If her story was correct, and her memory was remarkable up to the time of her death, David's death in 1841 is not correct, as my Mother was born in 1843.

David and Sarah, his wife, emigrated to Laurence County, Indiana in the year 1816. The farm they settled upon is located about five miles East of Bedford.

Children:

Eliza, married Andrew Thompson.

Joseph (my grandfather), married Martha Rainey.

John K., married Catherine Smith.

Malachi, married (1st) Polly Brown, (2nd) Robertson.

Rosa, married Benjamin Lane.

Catherine, married (1st) James Davis, (2nd) Jack Elkins.

Tabitha, married James Rainey, a brother of Grandmother Martha.

Jemima, married Thomas Pruitt.

Mary, married Drew P. Action. Children, two daughters.

Rebecca, married Michael Bell.

(Sarah Kiethly's mother's maiden name was "Stroud," born in Holland.)

JOSEPH CUMMINGS, SON OF DAVID, SON OF JOSEPH, SON OF MALACHI

Grandfather Joseph Cummings was a very interesting personality to me when I was a lad. He was so different from the other men that came to our house, so quiet. He talked but little, always seemed to prefer to listen. His smile was pleasant; I never heard him laugh. He was temperate in all things and envied no man. He practiced the law of "Do unto others." It was never my privilege to be alone with him often, but when I was a small boy, perhaps ten or twelve, I visited him for a week at his home near Houston, just over the line in Brown County, Indiana. Saturday afternoon I walked with him over the country side to the village store. He carried some marketing as he wanted certain supplies. The merchant tied up the purchases, totaled the amount and found that grandfather owed him seven cents. The merchant was asked to reduce the quantity of sugar; grandfather was reminded that the amount owing was only seven cents and that he would be again in the village within a few days when he could settle the balance. Grandfather was "out talked," but evidently he was not convinced that he should owe this sum—any sum — for the Sabbath was on the morrow. We trudged back to the farm. After supper he remarked to Aunt "Bitha" that he was going to town to pay Mr. Brown. He went; I did not, for the store was almost two miles away.

One memorable event in my life as a lad was a visit to Cincinnati. I saw everything. Father went with me, but did not stay quite as long as I did. I found that one did not have to take a letter to the Post Office. There were boxes in which to deposit the letter and in due time Uncle Sam sent one of his hired men after it. I rode on the first Electric Street Car in the world, and

at the Zoo I saw Mr. and Mrs. Rooney. I was home on Friday, and found my grandfather visiting us. On Saturday the two of us went fishing. That is a day I shall never forget. I was bubbling over with enthusiasm and told him all about my trip—I am sure I did not inherit his trait of silence. The electric light, and the street car motivated by electricity were as fascinating to him as they were to me. He could dimly understand how men might harness electricity and produce light, but how this element of energy could "push" a dead weight, a car loaded with people, was difficult to grasp. He had read about these things, but he had also learned not to put too much confidence in the printed page. Over fifty years have gone since then; we know that electricity moves the car, but the engineer cannot tell us exactly what it is. When my mother was a very small child, she went with her parents, in an ox cart to visit relatives in Arkansas, and many weeks were consumed on the trip. Today an automobile will make the journey in ten hours, traveling on its own power and generating its own electricity.

The last time I saw my grandfather, he was fading slowly, dying as a tree dies. He had been visiting us and when he was ready to return to his home, Father and Mother insisted I drive him, if not all the way, at least part of the fifteen miles. He did not agree, but I was ready. He told me that he would like to walk down the river bank to the bridge; I would have to drive the long way, and if he was not waiting for me at the bridge, not to follow. He was not waiting; I knew he would not be! Beyond the river, homeward bound he walked, erect, cane in hand. I did not follow but respected his wish, I knew that was what he wanted me to do. Then, we were as far apart as the North Star; I think I could understand him better now that I am older grown.

He was born in White County, Tennessee, April

28th, 1813, and married Martha Rainey at or near Bedford, Indiana, November 18th, 1841.

Martha was born in Virginia, and died March 31st, 1868. Joseph died April 3rd, 1895. Both are buried in the old Thompson Cemetery, near Houston, Indiana.

Children of Joseph and Martha Cummings:

(a) Eliza Ellen, born September 25th, 1843, died July 16th, 1924.
Mary K., born June 6th, 1844. Died infant.
Daniel, born April 30th, 1846. Died October 14th, 1862. Accident.

(b) John W., born November 4th, 1848. Died March 2nd, 1922.

(c) Sallie, born November 4th, 1848. Living, Sylvia, Kansas.
David M., born January 27th, 1851. Died infant.

(d) Rebecca J., born January 27th, 1851. Died August 25th, 1903.

(e) Tabitha, born February 26th, 1853. Died February 5th, 1921. Guthrie, Okla.
Joseph M., born February 5th, 1855. Died December 3rd, 1936.

(f) James W., born July 12th, 1857. Died May 1st, 1890.

(g) Thomas J., born December 18th, 1859. Living.

(h) George W., born August 4th, 1862. Living.
Lewis M., born January 30th, 1865. Unknown.

(a) Eliza Ellen, married Eli Warren Miller, October 5th, 1865. He died October 28th, 1919.

(b) John W., married Susan Strutton, ..., 1871.

(c) Sallie, married Frank Schwein, August 15th, 1869. He died January 12th, 1919.

(d) Rebecca J., married Dr. D. J. Cummings, June 30th, 1872. He died May 21st, 1917.

(e) Tabitha, married A. L. May, October 9th, 1870. Born June 27th, 1835. He died January 9th, 1923.

(f) James W., married Margaret Brown. She died .....

(g) Thomas J., married Eliza Wagoner, April 20th, 1896. Both living.

(h) George W., married Sarah Hatton, February 7th, 1896. Both living.

(Family of Eliza Ellen and Warren Miller, see Miller record.)

(b) John W. Cummings and wife. One son, Hezakiah. Dead.

Hezakiah, married ..... Children: Leona, Wesley.

(c) Sally Cummings Schwein and Frank Schwein.

Their children:

1. Martha Elizabeth, born January 1st, 1872, died September 12th, 1895. Married Samuel Cole. Their children: Luretta Gale (deceased), Virgie Fae, and Ross Franklin.

2. Bruce, born August 17th, 1874, died April 3rd, 1938. Married Rose Gaston. Their children: Byron Ardmore and Ivan Devere.

3. Harry (deceased), infant.

4. Carrie Ellen, born August 11th, 1877, died January 7th, 1912. Married Clyde Cooper. Their children: Mildred, Lester (deceased), Norval, Opal, Russell and Burton.

5. Rosa Mae, born November 15th, 1879. Married Joseph Markel. Children: Troy C., Vernon J., Forrest L., Claude C., Willa Mae, Morris B. and Ruth Ione.

6. George W., born December 1st, 1881. Married Elinor Allison. Children: Cleo Beatrice, Clair Q., Kieth S., Rex, Gene, June and Joan.

(d) Rebecca J. and Dr. D. J. Cummings. Their children:

1. Elmer, born May 26th, 1873. Married Ida I. Lutes, October 25th, 1891. Children: Wanda, Wylda, Wayne and Winona.

   2nd marriage, September 1st, 1909, to Mary A. White. Children: Elma Jane and Madeline Virginia.

2. Cora, born October 19th, 1875. Married Thomas V. Pruitt, September 22nd, 1895. Children: Straussia and Edith.

3. Joseph (Joe), born May 6th, 1878. Married Edith Shields. Children: Joseph Irwin, Cathleen and Edwin.

(e) Tabitha and Andrew L. May. Their children:

1. Myrtle, born October 2nd, 1880. Married David Lewis, October 2nd, 1901. Children: Andrew, Oran, May, Esther, Vernon, Muriel, Angie, George (deceased), Irene, Pauline, Virginia E.

2. Van R., born August 15th, 1882. Died January 7th, 1930. On November 1st, 1908. He married Edith Jarvis. Their children: Mary Edith, Van R. (deceased), Ama, Ora, Lela, Ellen, Andrew Lewis (deceased), Leo (deceased).

3. Joe W., born July 9th, 1885. August 30th, 1919, married Elsie Arey.

4. Guthrie, born February 13th, 1890. October 20th, 1910, married John R. Bullington. Children: Hazel (deceased), Kenneth and Doris.

5. Ruth Ellen, born December 31st, 1897. February 12th, 1918, married Don Moon. Children: Don, Jr., Margaret Ruth, Martha Evelyn, Mary Anna.

(f) James W. and Margaret. Children: Roxie, Pansy, Daisy and William.

(g) Thomas J. and wife, Eliza. Children: David, Margaret, Rebecca, James, Tabitha, Louise, Martha, Melissa (deceased), and Susan.

(h) George W. and wife, Sarah. Children: Joseph, Oreon, Ray, Charles, Opal and Aime Lee.